

TRIBUTE TO DAVE E. DIPAOLO,
CORONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona and Norco, CA are exceptional. Our community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dave DiPaolo is one of these individuals. Dave is being honored as he retires after 36 years of dedicated service to the students, employees, parents, and community members of the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

Dave began his teaching career at Corona High School where he was appointed to Director of Activities/Athletics and initiated the Athletic Hall of Fame; designed the school's athletic handbook; served as a board member on the California Activities Directors' Association; and as a charter member and president of the Citrus Belt Athletic Directors' Association.

After serving 21 years at Corona High, Dave was promoted in 1986 to the position of assistant principal at Norco High School where he served on various athletic organizations as well as membership in management and administrative organizations. In 1997, Dave was selected to serve as Director of Human Relations for the school district, overseeing more than 1,800 employees.

Throughout his career, Dave has shown an unlimited willingness to help students, teachers and employees. He has been a role model and mentor to both students and teachers. His consistent "open-door" policy cultivated an atmosphere of communication and understanding. At all times, he has conducted himself with integrity. His leadership and contributions have touched the lives of many students and teachers.

Dave's tireless passion for education has contributed immensely to the betterment of the communities of Corona and Norco, California. Dave has demonstrated his willingness to work hard for quality education and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many children, parents, fellow teachers and administrators are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROYAL
OAK LIONS CLUB

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Royal Oak Lions Club on the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

The Royal Oak Lions Club, founded in 1928, has indeed taken up the challenge that Helen Keller presented to the International Lions Convention in 1925. She asked them to expand their interests and include services to the blind and the visually impaired.

The Royal Oak Lions Club has offered their dedicated service to numerous programs and organizations, including Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Penrickton Center for Multiply Handicapped Children, Lions Visually Impaired Camp, scholarships for hearing-impaired students at Madonna University, and the Beaumont Silent Children's speech program. Not only has this community-minded institution devoted its effort to these programs, it has also provided essential support to a myriad of services for our youth and vital community-based charities.

The Royal Oak Lions Club and its membership are important parts of the fabric of the Royal Oak and Southeast Oakland County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their longstanding commitment to public service and wishing the Royal Oak Lions Club continued success in all of their important endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ALLEN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved friend, outstanding community leader and longtime Congressional aide, the late E.T. "Mike" Allen of Whitesboro, Texas, who passed away on March 14 of this year at the age of 83. Mike served as District Assistant for my predecessor, the late Congressman Ray Roberts, from 1969 to 1980, and as my district assistant from 1980 to 1995. He also served as a member of my screening board for U.S. Military Academies and was my trusted friend and associate.

Mike was knowledgeable about the legislative process—and was so understanding and helpful with constituents who sought assistance with their concerns and problems. He knew the Congressional District from top to bottom, and in addition to being knowledgeable, was always punctual and available. He was always a gentleman and always kind in everything he did.

Mike truly enjoyed people and lived a life of service—both in the workplace and in his community and church. In all that he did—and with all whom he met—Mike brought an abiding sense of optimism and a smile that was his trademark. His favorite saying was "Always keep a happy heart." He loved people. He loved his family. He had a deep and abiding faith in God. I know of no one who knew Mike who did not consider him a friend. He was a man of honor, integrity and a generous nature.

Mike was distinguished in all walks of life. He was a well-liked and well-respected community leader in Whitesboro and Sherman. He served as mayor of Whitesboro for five terms—the last of which he was elected by write-in votes. Among his many civic activities, he served as president of the Whitesboro Chamber of Commerce, president of the local Rotary Club, president of the Quarterback Club, Master of Masonic Lodge #263 and Post Commander of the American Legion Post #398.

Mike was also president of the Grayson County Development Council, a member of

the original committee that secured the site for Grayson County College, chairman of the Parent's Committee for the 125th Anniversary Commission, a Council board member of the Boy Scouts of America and an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro. He served on the Wilson N. Jones Foundation Board of Directors and was a board member of the Grayson County Campfire Girls of America, the Old Settlers Park Association in Sherman and the Grayson County Child Welfare.

Mike also was a frequent visitor of the local domino hall and a good player in his own right. Playing dominoes was a cherished tradition that facilitated comradery and friendship and served as an unofficial repository of historic and humorous events in the life of Whitesboro.

It comes as no surprise that Mike was named Outstanding Citizen of Whitesboro twice—in 1970 and 1998.

Mike was born in Whitesboro on December 31, 1919, the son of E.T. Allen Sr. and Mary Anderson Allen. He graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1936 and from North Texas State University in Denton. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1942, where he became a first lieutenant. On returning to Whitesboro, he entered into private business with his father for 23 years before joining Congressman Roberts' staff.

In 1946 he married his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Ann Roberts Allen, a graduate of Texas Woman's University of Denton. They had a special marriage—and they have a devoted family that includes their son, Michael Allen of Tyler and daughter-in-law Carol and granddaughters Lindsay and Carly; daughter Marcy Allen Brown of Greenville and son-in-law Jon and children Leigh and Ben; sister and brother-in-law Lucille and R.B. Head, Jr., and two nieces.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew and loved Mike Allen miss him dearly—but his presence continues to be felt in Whitesboro, in Sherman and in the hearts of his family and many friends. He leaves behind such a remarkable legacy of caring and service. America is blessed to have citizens like my good friend Mike Allen, who answered the call to service for his country and his community throughout his exemplary and noble life. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this great man and great American—E.T. "Mike" Allen.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
ROBERT H. DIEFENBACHER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert H. Diefenbacher, retiring President of the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce, and commend him for his life long service to our community.

Robert Diefenbacher began his tenure as President of the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce in August of 2000, following his retirement as a successful local entrepreneur. His 38 years of business and marketing experience has been a tremendous asset to the chamber and has provided unwavering guidance and support to its membership. He spent